

Serial No: 09/439,427
Attorney Docket No: RPC 0491 PUS

IN THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A synthetic resin pallet, for use with a fork lift, having upper and lower decks spaced apart by a plurality of supports to define therebetween fork-receiving regions beneath the upper deck, the pallet made by a method comprising:

- (a) separately molding the upper and lower decks of synthetic resin;
- (b) mechanically scuffing a top surface of the upper deck, a bottom surface of the lower deck, and an underside of the upper deck in the fork-receiving regions to create scuffs forming a slip-resistant scuffed texture thereon; and
- (c) assembling the decks to form a finished pallet.

23. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 22 wherein scuffing comprises scuffing said surfaces to create a multi-directional scuffing pattern.

24. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 22 wherein scuffing comprises brushing said surfaces with at least one wire brush.

25. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 22 wherein scuffing includes brushing said surfaces with at least one cup-shaped wire brush.

26. (Previously Presented) A plastic pallet adapted for use with a fork member of a lift device, the plastic pallet including a first deck and a second deck spaced apart from each other by a plurality of support members extending therebetween and defining fork-receiving regions, the pallet prepared by a method comprising:

- providing the first deck and the second deck separately from each other;
- scuffing an outer surface of the first deck and an inner surface of the first deck in the fork-receiving regions to define a plurality of slip-resistance scuffed surfaces; and
- assembling the first deck and the second deck to define the plastic pallet.

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27. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 26, wherein scuffing includes brushing the surfaces with at least one wire brush.

28. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 26, wherein scuffing includes brushing the surfaces with at least one cup-shaped wire brush.

29. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 26, wherein scuffing includes scuffing the surfaces to define a multi-directional scuffing pattern.

30. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 26, wherein scuffing further includes scuffing an outer surface of the second deck.

31. (Previously Presented) A plastic pallet for use with a fork member of a lift device, the plastic pallet having a first deck and a second deck spaced apart from each other by a plurality of support members to define fork-receiving regions therebetween, the pallet formed by a method comprising:

separately providing the first deck and the second deck;
scuffing an upper surface of the first deck and a lower surface of the second deck to define a plurality of slip-resistance scuffed surfaces; and
assembling the first deck and the second deck to define the plastic pallet.

32. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 31, wherein scuffing includes brushing the surfaces with at least one wire brush.

33. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 31, wherein scuffing includes brushing the surfaces with at least one cup-shaped wire brush.

34. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 31, wherein scuffing includes scuffing the surfaces to define a multi-directional scuffing pattern.

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35. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 31, wherein scuffing further includes scuffing the inner surface of the first deck in the fork-receiving region.

36. (Previously Presented) A pallet having at least one deck member, the pallet prepared by a method comprising:

providing the at least one deck member having a first surface and a second surface; and

mechanically scuffing at least one of the first and second surfaces of the deck member to define a slip-resistant surface thereon.

37. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 36, wherein scuffing includes scuffing the at least one surface to create a multi-directional scuffing pattern.

38. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 36, wherein scuffing includes brushing the at least one surface with at least one wire brush.

39. (Currently Amended) A pallet having at least one deck member, the pallet prepared by a method comprising:

molding a single material to form the at least one deck member having a first major surface of the single material and a second surface; and

mechanically scuffing the first major surface of the deck member to create scuffs which define a slip-resistant surface thereon.

40. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 39, wherein scuffing includes scuffing the first major surface to create a multi-directional scuffing pattern.

41. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 40, wherein scuffing includes brushing the first major surface with at least one wire brush.

42. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 39 wherein the first major surface is a major surface of the pallet.

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43. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 39 wherein the pallet has a load-contacting surface and wherein the first major surface comprises the entire load-contacting surface of the pallet.

44. (Previously Presented) A synthetic resin pallet, for use with a fork lift, having upper and lower decks spaced apart by a plurality of supports to define therebetween fork-receiving regions beneath the upper deck, the pallet made by a method comprising:

- (a) separately injection-molding the upper and lower decks of synthetic resin to form a top surface of the upper deck, a bottom surface of the lower deck, and an underside of the upper deck in the fork-receiving regions;
- (b) mechanically scuffing at least one of the top surface of the upper deck, the bottom surface of the lower deck, and the underside of the upper deck in the fork-receiving regions to create a slip-resistant scuffed texture; and
- (c) assembling the decks to form a finished pallet.

45. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 44 wherein said step (c) is performed after said step (b).

46. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 44 wherein said step (b) comprises scuffing the top surface of the upper deck, the bottom surface of the lower deck and the underside of the upper deck in the fork-receiving regions to create multi-directional scuffing patterns.

47. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 46 wherein scuffing comprises brushing said surfaces with at least one wire brush.

48. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 47 wherein scuffing includes brushing said surfaces with at least one rotating cup-shaped wire brush.

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49. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 44 wherein the top surface of the upper deck is a major surface of the pallet and wherein said step (b) includes the step of mechanically scuffing the top surface of the upper deck.

50. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 44 wherein the pallet has a load-contacting surface and wherein the top surface of the upper deck comprises the entire load-contacting surface of the pallet and wherein said step (b) includes the step of mechanically scuffing the top surface of the upper deck.

51. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 44 wherein said step (a) further includes the step of injection-molding one of the upper and lower decks to include a plurality of supports and the other of the upper and lower decks to include a plurality of recesses for receiving the plurality of supports and wherein said step (b) includes the step of mechanically scuffing the top surface of the upper deck.

51. (New) The pallet of claim 39 wherein the first major surface is smooth.

52. (New) The pallet of claim 51 wherein the first major surface is dull.

53. (New) The pallet of claim 52 wherein the first major surface is a load-contacting surface of the pallet.

54. (New) The pallet of claim 53 wherein the scuffing pattern is a multi-directional scuffing pattern.